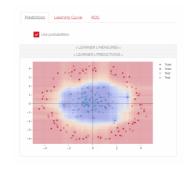
Introduction to Machine Learning

Gradient Boosting: Classification



Learning goals

- GB for binary classification simply uses Bernoulli or exponential loss
- For multiclass we fit g discriminant functions in parallel



BINARY CLASSIFICATION

For $\mathcal{Y}=\{0,1\}$, we simply have to select an appropriate loss function, so let us use Bernoulli loss as in logistic regression:

$$L(y, f(\mathbf{x})) = -y \cdot f(\mathbf{x}) + \log(1 + \exp(f(\mathbf{x}))).$$

Then,

$$\tilde{r}(f) = -\frac{\partial L(y, f(\mathbf{x}))}{\partial f(\mathbf{x})}$$

$$= y - \frac{\exp(f(\mathbf{x}))}{1 + \exp(f(\mathbf{x}))}$$

$$= y - \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-f(\mathbf{x}))} = y - s(f(\mathbf{x})).$$

Here, $s(f(\mathbf{x}))$ is the logistic function, applied to a scoring model. Hence, effectively, the pseudo-residuals are $y - \pi(\mathbf{x})$.

Through $\pi(\mathbf{x}) = s(f(\mathbf{x}))$ we can also estimate posterior probabilities.

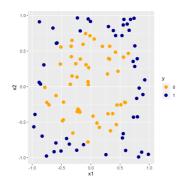


BINARY CLASSIFICATION

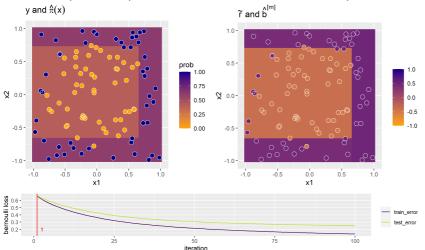
- Rest works as in regression.
- NB: We fit regression BLs against the PRs with L2 loss.
- Exponential loss works too. In practice there is no big difference, although Bernoulli loss makes a bit more sense from a theoretical (maximum likelihood) perspective.
- It can be shown GB with exp loss is basically equivalent to and generalizes AdaBoost.



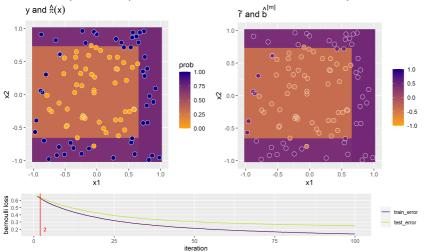
- mlbench circle data with n = 100
- Bernoulli loss
- BL = shallow tree with max. depth of 3
- We initialized with $f^{[0]} = 0$.



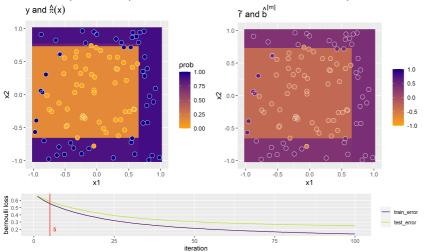




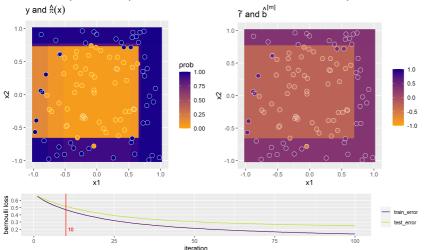




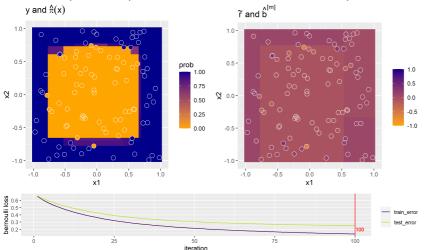














MULTICLASS PROBLEMS

We proceed as in softmax regression and model a categorical distribution with multinomial / log loss. For $\mathcal{Y} = \{1, \dots, g\}$, we create g discriminant functions $f_k(\mathbf{x})$, one for each class and each one being an **additive** model of base learners.

We define the $\pi_k(\mathbf{x})$ through the softmax function:

$$\pi_k(\mathbf{x}) = s_k(f_1(\mathbf{x}), \dots, f_g(\mathbf{x})) = \exp(f_k(\mathbf{x})) / \sum_{j=1}^g \exp(f_j(\mathbf{x})).$$

Multinomial loss *L*:

$$L(y, f_1(\mathbf{x}), \dots f_g(\mathbf{x})) = -\sum_{k=1}^g \mathbb{1}_{\{y=k\}} \ln \pi_k(\mathbf{x}).$$

Pseudo-residuals:

$$-\frac{\partial L(y, f_1(\mathbf{x}), \dots, f_g(\mathbf{x}))}{\partial f_k(\mathbf{x})} = \mathbb{1}_{\{y=k\}} - \pi_k(\mathbf{x}).$$



MULTICLASS PROBLEMS

Algorithm GB for Multiclass

1: Initialize
$$f_k^{[0]}(\mathbf{x}) = 0, \ k = 1, \dots, g$$

2: for
$$m = 1 \rightarrow M$$
 do

3: Set
$$\pi_k^{[m]}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\exp(f_k^{[m]}(\mathbf{x}))}{\sum_j \exp(f_k^{[m]}(\mathbf{x}))}, k = 1, \dots, g$$

4: for
$$k = 1 \rightarrow g$$
 do

5: For all *i*: Compute
$$\tilde{r}_k^{[m](i)} = \mathbb{1}_{\{y^{(i)}=k\}} - \pi_k^{[m]}(\mathbf{x}^{(i)})$$

6: Fit a regression base learner
$$\hat{b}_{k}^{[m]}$$
 to the pseudo-residuals $\tilde{r}_{k}^{[m](i)}$.

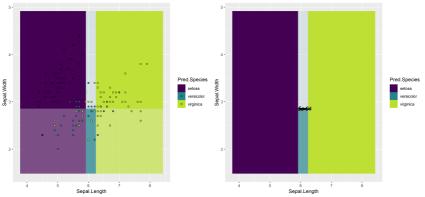
7: Update
$$\hat{f}_{k}^{[m]} = \hat{f}_{k}^{[m-1]} + \alpha \hat{b}_{k}^{[m]}$$

8: end for

9: **end for**
10: Output
$$\hat{f}_1^{[M]}, \dots, \hat{f}_q^{[M]}$$

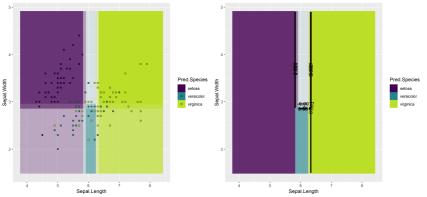


LHS: BG color is predicted probs and point col is true label; RHS: Contour lines of discriminant functions.



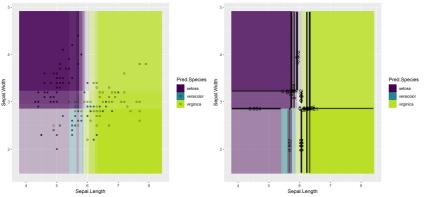


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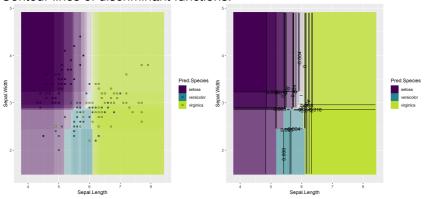


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